

## MINING

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Park City began to grow rapidly with these discoveries, and for more than half a century the mining work supported two railroads, the Denver and Rio Grande and the Union Pacific. The Park City mining district is about eight miles north of Midway, and for more than 75 years has served as the major market center for the farmers of Midway. The mines also furnished employment for many men from Midway who chose mining as their pursuit for wealth and happiness. Many prospered, some failed and several lost their lives or were maimed in a sincere effort to succeed.

In American Fork Canyon the first discoveries were made around 1875 and by 1888 the Miller Hill, the Dutchman and the Pacific mines were the three major producers. These mines operated for many years, but the ore bodies were relatively small and soon were depleted. However, for a few years these mines supported the state's first narrow gauge railroad.

These American Fork Canyon mines also served as a market for eggs, butter, cheese and vegetables for Midway farmers. Reports indicate that some of the farmers carried as much as 75 pounds of produce on their backs, following a rough trail over the mountains west of Midway into the canyon to supply the needs of the miners.

In the Midway area itself a mining district was organized, known as the Blue Ledge mining district. Two of the earliest mines were the Flagg Staff and Lucky Bill, neither of which produced much ore. Other early properties near Midway included the Southern Tier group and the St. Louis-Vasser claims. The Southern Tier group was owned by Eugene Levigneur and a Mr. St. Joer, both Frenchmen. From the Southern Tier

came some \$90,000 worth of high grade ore. This mine was one of Midway's largest producers. Henry T. Coleman of Midway directed the work in these mines, and some who were employed included John Morton, Jerry Springer, Nate Springer, George Schear, John A. Sulser, Carson Smith, David J. Wilson, Nymphus Watkins, Jacob Kummer, Frank Greenwell, Charles Alexander, Adam Empey, Brigham Hamilton and William John Wilson.

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Another large operation that hired many local men included the Steam Boat Tunnel, later known as Mountain Lake Tunnel. Charles Buhler was foreman of the Steam Boat Tunnel and William Witt of the Mountain Lake Tunnel. Many who worked in these mines included Henry T. Coleman, John Buehler, Nathaniel Baldwin, Ernest Kohler, Charles Bigler, William Bigler, Samuel Ritchie, Fred Sonderegger, John A. Sulser and Hyrum Shelton, and two women who were cooks, Mrs. Mary Bigler Kohler and Mrs. Bertha Sonderegger Wilson.

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William (Billie) Bogan who had considerable interests in the Park City area, which he later sold, also located some claims in the Snake Creek area. He worked these for many years until he became too old. Fred Hanney worked for many years for Mr. Bogan, as did John A. Sulser.

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Midway Town Hall. The lime used was burned by Fred O. Haueter in 1939-41. Others to work at the trade were Thomas Bonner, Henry T. Coleman and Nephi Huber.

### MARBLE QUARRY

Marble of high quality was discovered high in the hills at the head of Snake Creek Canyon by Sidney Epperson shortly after Midway was established. From this quarry huge blocks of marble were brought down the rugged, twisting canyon on two-wheeled carts drawn by oxen. The slabs were taken to the Cornelius Springer homestead where they were fashioned into usable blocks. An early use of the marble was for headstones, some of which can still be seen in the Midway Cemetery.

One of the early owners of this quarry was Fredrick Buchler. Later, Andrew Gebhardt of Salt Lake City bought the quarry for \$1,000. He changed the name to the Wasatch Marble Company of Utah and established the company headquarters in Salt Lake City. The quarry continued successfully through the 1880's.

### ICE STORAGE

Refrigeration in Midway's early years was accomplished through cutting and storing of ice in chilly winter months and utilizing it in the hot days of summer.

As sub-zero winter weather formed thick layers of ice on lakes and ponds, crews would take large saws and cut the ice into chunks that could be stored. Usually the ice was cut into blocks weighing between 100 and 125 pounds. The blocks were carried by sleighs to storage houses where they were stacked and covered by thick layers of sawdust.

Persons with lakes or ponds on their property would usually sell the ice for 15 cents a ton if the buyer would cut it, or as much as 50 cents a ton if it was pre-cut.

Two-man, cross-cut timber saws were used to cut the ice, with the handle on one end of the saw removed. Lines for sawing were laid out on the ice with a straight board. Ice tongs were used to remove the chunks of ice. The work was slippery and cold, and many a man fell into the icy cold water and had to be dried out before he could resume working. Teams of horses were known to break through the ice also, creating great excitement and often suffering before the animals could be hauled out of their freezing predicaments.

As summer time came, the saw-dust would be scraped or washed from the ice to provide refrigeration. If properly stored, the ice would usually last through most of the summer.

Ice entrepreneurs included Marks Jeffs and Nels Johnson who sold from the mill pond. The Rasband brothers had a pond west of the Provo River bridge between Midway and Heber. Retail outlets for ice included Coleman's Store, William Watkins and William L. Van Wagener's stores.

Some of the early ice cutters included George T. Watkins, John Luke, Fred Haueter, Ulrich Kuhni, Albert Lockner, Joseph Galli and Joseph Abegglen.

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